

REMARKS

The USPTO issued an office action dated February 9, 2005 in respect to the above entitled application. In response to this office action, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 18, 25, and 28 to include a recitation that the mechanical actuator is mounted to the intermediate member "about a pivot axis extending perpendicular to the rotational axis of the rotary shaft" (claim 1; claims 18, 25, 28 are similar).

In the preferred embodiment disclosed, this recitation refers to the pivot 82 which pivot 82 is fixedly connected to the intermediate member 15 perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the shaft 100 (pg 7 lns 15-16). The rotation of the lever 80 about this pivot 82 causes the brakes to mutually expand, with a counter-clockwise rotation applying the mechanical brakes (pg 7 lns 18-20).

It is believed that this recitation would undeniably differentiate claims 1-10, 12, 15-24, 26, 28-29, and 31 over the examiner's rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox U.S. Patent 2,328,619 in view of Massey U.S. Patent 1,476,989. Reasons for this include that in both the Cox and Massey references the pertinent operating levers both are moved about an axis parallel to the rotational axis of the shafts with which they are associated (see Cox lever 8 shaft 2 @ col 2 lns 30-34; see Massey Belcrank levers 29 shaft

16 @ col 2 lns 100-102; respectively). It is noted that even with the examiner's suggested displacement of the cavity in Cox from the friction surface in respect to the longitudinal length of the rotational axis of the shaft therein (2/9/5 oa pg 3 lns 10-18), such a construction still has a parallel pivot. This parallel pivot would have a substantially larger diameter than the pivoting lever having a perpendicular movement axis as is presently included in the rejected independent claims 1, 18, 25, and 28.

With this amendment, it is believed that all of the rejected claims differentiate over the examiner's cited references. This is believed to place the application into condition for allowance including these claims and the previously allowed claims 11, 13-14, 26, 27, 30, and 32.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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